

Mayor Mallory's Message of the Week, April 9, 2007

Creating a Green Cincinnati

Cincinnati has one of the best city park systems in the country. With over 100 parks and green spaces on over 5,000 acres, there are countless opportunities for outdoor fun and excitement in every corner of our city. A healthy environment increases the quality of life for everyone. It is important that we actively take part in improving the environment. I have made creating a "Green Cincinnati" a priority of my administration.

We have worked to increase the City of Cincinnati's commitment to protecting the environment. Working with Council Member David Crowley, we created the Office of Environmental Quality to oversee the environmental concerns of the city. We launched the Cincinnati Green Initiative in conjunction with the Parks Department to develop energy-efficiency projects such as using solar and wind energy to power city facilities. We are using Biofuel in city vehicles. We also installed Smart Trashcans in Cincinnati's parks. The high-tech cans use solar power to compact trash and reduce collections.

It is important to educate our youth about the environment not only to inspire them to take care of it but also to promote pride in their community. I have launched a pilot recycling program in six Cincinnati Public high schools: Aiken, Clark, Hughes, Taft, Walnut Hills, and Withrow. In cooperation with the Young Professional Kitchen Cabinet and Rumpke Recycling, the program will promote recycling among the youth and award the school that collects the most recyclable material. The Mayor's Youth Council will work in the schools to encourage their classmates to participate.

I encourage all citizens to also get involved in projects to improve the environment. You can have an impact on improving the quality of life in our communities and the natural beauty of all Cincinnati.